

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2003/003937



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P15748	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/003937	International filing date (day/month/year) 15 April 2003 (15.04.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 15 April 2002 (15.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01L 21/00		
Applicant ERS ELECTRONIC GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 November 2003 (13.11.2003)	Date of completion of this report 19 January 2004 (19.01.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*:

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages 1-14, as originally filed,
 pages _____, filed with the demand,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims, Nos. 1-20, as originally filed,
 Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
 Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig 1/5-5/5, as originally filed,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following documents:

- D1: US-A-6 099 643 (OHTANI MASAMI ET AL) 8 August 2000
(2000-08-08)
- D2: US-A-5 885 353 (DAVIS SHAWN ET AL) 23 March 1999
(1999-03-23)
- D3: DE 202 05 949 U (ERS ELECTRONIC GMBH) 22 August 2002
(2002-08-22)

Document D1 is considered to constitute the prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1-20 and discloses (the references in parentheses are to that document): a device and a method for conditioning semiconductor substrates.

The subject matter of claims 1-20 therefore differs from the known subject matter in that the tempering fluid is recycled and used to condition the atmosphere of the surrounding space.

The problem addressed by the present invention can thus be considered to be that of achieving a more efficient conditioning of wafers.

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D1 describes a conditioning device but not the passing of a fluid through a receiving system, nor the tempering of the surrounding space with the same.

D2 likewise describes a conditioning arrangement, but the wafer is held therein on the chuck by a vacuum; although an air stream is produced thereby, the fluid stream is not re-used to condition the surrounding space.

The contents of claims 1-20 are therefore novel and inventive in relation to the cited prior art in D1 and D2.

Certain published documents (PCT Rule 70.10):

D3, published on 26 September 2002, relates to a registered design by the same applicant and having the same contents. D3 could become relevant in a later phase.